

Message Text

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SUBJECT: AMSPEC BENALLY AND KEANS

REF: STATE 307016

NATIVE AMERICANS HERBERT BENALLY AND GERALDINE KEANS
CONDUCTED HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL THREE-DAY PROGRAM EXHIBITS,
DISCUSSION, POETRY, SONG AND DANCE BEFORE SRO AUDIENCES
AT HAITIAN-AMERICAN INSTITUTE. EMBASSY PARTICULARLY
PLEASED WITH GOOD QUALITY AUDIENCES ATTRACTED.
DURING FIRST EVENING SPEAKERS FORMED PANEL ON NAVAJO
LIFE AND CULTURE WITH HAITIAN INTERPRETER PROFESSOR
JEANNE PHILIPPE. PSYCHIATRIST, CULTURAL INTERPRETER
AND PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY AT FACULTY OF ETHNOLOGY,
DR. PHILIPPE WAS KEY TO SUCCESS PROGRAM DUE
KNOWLEDGE OF THE CULTURE ACQUIRED TWO YEARS AGO
AT NAVAJO COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN CARIBBEAN AMERICAN
EXCHANGE PROGRAM. HER PRESTIGE IN THE COMMUNITY
HELPED DRAW PRIORITY GROUP AUDIENCE OF UNIVERSITY
FACULTY AND STUDENTS, ARTISTS, INTELLECTUALS AND
PROFESSIONALS.

SPEAKERS ALSO PROJECTED A FILM MADE BY THE COLLEGE.
WHILE RELATIVELY HARD HITTING ON SAD HISTORY OF
NAVAJO NATION, IT IS BALANCED FILM WHICH UNDERLINES
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CURRENT FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO TRIBE AND COLLEGE.
ON DISPLAY WERE A NUMBER OF ARTIFACTS, DRESSES AND
BLANKETS, PAINTINGS AND PRINTS BROUGHT BY THE SPEAKERS
WITH USIA COOPERATION. LITHOGRAPHS AND PRINTS BY
JIM ABEITA EXCELLENT ADDITIONS TO THE PROGRAM. KEANS
AND BENALLY VERY HELPFUL IN ARRANGING AN EFFECTIVE

DISPLAY OF THE ARTIFACTS. NAVAJO RECORDED MUSIC
ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO INDIAN AMBIANCE.

SECOND EVENING TWO AMSPECS PRESENTED INDIAN PRAYER,
SONGS, POETRY AND DANCES. KEANS PROJECTS VERY WELL.
HER BACKGROUND IN SPEECH AND DRAMA IMMEDIATELY
EVIDENT. BENALLY AND KEANS COULD HAVE DONE SMOOTHER
PERFORMANCE HAD THEY ARRIVED DAY IN ADVANCE. AT
POST PROGRAM OFFICER LEVEL, IT IS DIFFICULT UNDERSTAND
WHY, FOR PROGRAM PLANNED YEAR IN ADVANCE, AMSPECS
SHOULD ARRIVE VERY DAY OF PERFORMANCE WITH JUST
BREATHLESS TWO HOURS DECORATE HALL, CHANGE AND
COME ON STAGE*

THE AMSPECS ALSO CONDUCTED TWO DAYTIME PROGRAMS FOR
HAITIAN SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS. AS SUCCESSFUL AS
BNC EVENINGS.

FOR FINAL EVENT BNC SPONSORED GUEST SPEAKER DR. WILLIAM
HODGES ON "LES INDIENS D'HAITI ET LEUR CONTRIBUTION A
LA CULTURE ACTUELLE." AN AMERICAN MEDICAL MISSIONARY
IN LIMBE FOR 20 YEARS, DR. HODGES HAS ASSEMBLED THE
MOST IMPORTANT ARCHEOLOGICAL COLLECTION ON PRE-COLOMBIAN
PERIOD.

AMBASSADOR PRESENTED DR. HODGES WITH BICENTENNIAL AWARD
FOR HIS SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION TO HAITIAN AMERICAN
RELATIONS.

NAVAJOS PARTICIPATED IN THE DISCUSSION FOLLOWING HODGES'
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LECTURE AND REFLECTED THE HAITIAN PLEASURE IN EMBASSY'S
CONCERN WITH BOTH HAITIAN AND AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURE.
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